

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 L-02 SSO-00 ( ISO ) W

----- 065197

R 091100Z APR 75

FM AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4577

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, PFOR, IN

SUBJ: HARCOS/FLETCHER

1. THE FOLLOWING LETTER WAS RECEIVED FROM MRS. RUTH FLETCHER WITH THE REQUEST THAT THE CONOFF "READ OR OTHERWISE COMMUNICATE" THE CONTENTS OF THE LETTER TO ANTHONY FLETCHER.

QUOTE TONY DEAR, I DO HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND THE REASONS FOR MY INFREQUENT LETTERS TO YOU--UNDER THE RESTRICTED LIMITATIONS OF THIS METHOD OF COMMUNICATION THERE HARDLY SEEMS MUCH POINT IN ATTEMPTING TO MAINTAIN ANY MEANINGFUL FORM OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN US.

"I ASSUME THAT DEDE DONOVAN MANAGED TO CONVEY TO YOU HOW THINGS ARE WITH ME AND THAT HER PRESENCE IN INDIA AGAIN AFTER A YEAR'S ABSENCE, ASSURED YOU OF MY CONTINUED CONCERN AND EFFORT TO TRY TO INVESTIGATE AND ULTIMATELY CHANGE YOUR PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

"DEDE RETURNED WITH INTIMATIONS OF A POSSIBLE CHANGE OF HEART, ON THE PART OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, (NEW DELHI) RE A BASIC SHIFT IN ATTITUDE AND A WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER AN ATTEMPTED DRUG SMUGGLING CHANGE INSTEAD OF THE ESPIONAGE ISSUE. I CAN CERTAINLY UNDERSTAND YOUR RELUCTANCE TO AGREE TO ANY SUCH DEAL ESPECIALLY BECAUSE OF THE SUBSEQUENT POSSIBILITIES OPENED UP BY THIS ADMISSION ONCE YOU RETURN TO THE STATES BUT IT DOES SEEM THAT IT MAY VERY WELL BE THE ONLY AVENUE OPEN TO YOU AT THIS TIME THAT TRULY OFFERS ANY REAL HOPE OF ESCAPING FROM A KAFKAESQUE TRIAL, IF ONE WERE IT EVER TO TAKE PLACE, NOT TO

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MENTION THE PROSPECT OF A LONG PRISON SENTENCE AS WELL\*

"IT MUST BE EMPHASIZED THAT TIME IS RUNNING OUT, AS FAR AS FINANCING YOUR CASE IS CONCERNED; HAVE ALREADY, AS MENTIONED IN MY EARLIER LETTERS, GONE INTO CONSIDERABLE PERSONAL DEBT, WAY OVER MY HEAD AS A MATTER OF FACT\* I DON'T THINK THAT I HAVE TO REMIND YOU THAT WITH YOUR FATHER GONE, MY OWN INCOME IS QUITE INADEQUATE TO SUPPORT THE KIND OF FINANCIAL DRAIN THIS CASE HAS BEEN FOR ME OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS. AT PRESENT, FRIENDS (LEONARD, BOUDIN, FRITZ SILKER, DICK POSTER) HAVE GOTTEN TOGETHER AND MOUNTED AN ORGANIZED FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN IN ORDER TO TRY AND ACCUMULATE MORE MONIES TO ANTICIPATE AND SATISFY SOME OF THE CONSTANT DEMANDS THE CASE NEEDS FOR LAWYERS, THE FLAT, FOOD, ETC.

" YOUR ANGER AND FRUSTRATION OVER THE AGONY YOU HAVE BEEN PUT THROUGH IS CERTAINLY MORE THAN UNDERSTANDABLE BUT I FEEL THAT I MUST REMIND YOU THAT UPPERMOST IN YOUR MIND SHOULD BE THE DESIRE TO GET FREE--ANY DEAL BY WHICH YOU CAN HASTEN THIS END AND FINALLY GET OUT OF THE CLUTCHES OF GHOSH & CO. IS WORTH THE RISK\* AMERICA IS NOT INDIA, AND ALTHOUGH OUR JUSTICE IS NOT INFALLIBLE AND OUR LAWS FAR FROM PERFECT, AM MUCH MORE SANGUINE ABOUT YOUR CIVIL LIBERTIES RECEIVING BETTER PROTECTION OVER HERE\*

"PLEASE TRY TO KEEP YOUR SPIRITS UP AND I'M SURE THAT YOU DO KNOW THAT I HAVE BEEN AND AM TRYING WITH THE HELP OF LEONARD AND DEDE, TO DO ALL THAT WE CAN AT THIS END, TO BRING THIS DREADFUL NIGHTMARE TO AN END.

"IF THERE IS ANYTHING YOU SPECIFICALLY WANT OR NEED, PLEASE LET MR. O'NEILL KNOW AND IF I CAN, WILL SEND IT ALONG PRONTO.

"LOVE FROM SUSAN, LARRY, JAMIE (SHE TALKS ABOUT UNCLE TONY\*) AND ALL THE REST OF THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS. AS EVER, MOTHER  
UNQUOTE

2. AS WILL BE NOTED FROM THE LETTER, WHICH MUST PASS SPECIAL BRANCH CENSORSHIP, CERTAIN COMMENTS ARE MADE REGARDING PLEA BARGAINING, JUSTICE IN INDIA AND ALEC GHOSH (SPECIAL BRANCH INVESTIGATING OFFICER) WHICH WE REGARD AS COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.

3. THEREFORE, WE ARE RELUCTANT TO PASS THIS LETTER WITHOUT MRS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FLETCHER'S UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS LETTER WILL AT LEAST BE READ BY ALEC GHOSH AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, IF NOT COPIES.

4. DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO CONTACT MRS. FLETCHER, INFORM HER OF FOREGOING, AND FIND OUT WHAT SHE WANTS US TO DO.  
ROSSELOT

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